Listing of Claims

1.   (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a virtual device interface, wherein

said virtual device interface is configured to allow a primary storage unit
to be accessed using at least one operation that is substantially the
same as that used to control a secondary storage unit,

said virtual device interface is coupled to control said primary storage unit
and said secondary storage unit,

said primary storage unit is configured to provide access to data stored on
non-removable storage media, and

said secondary storage unit is configured to permit access to data stored on
removable storage media.

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein
said virtual device interface is further configured to allow a utility to access said
primary storage unit as said secondary storage unit.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein
said virtual device interface is a virtual tape interface

4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising
said primary storage unit.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein
said virtual tape interface is configured to create a virtual loader on said primary
storage unit.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, further comprising:

said secondary storage unit.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said virtual tape interface

comprises:

> a virtual loader library, communicatively coupled to said primary storage unit;
>> and
>
> a virtual loader utilities module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader
>> library.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual tape interface

further comprises:

> a main module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library; and
>
> a configuration file, accessible by said main module, wherein said configuration
>> file comprises information that allows said virtual loader library to create a
>> virtual loader on said primary storage unit.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein

said virtual loader library is configured to allow a utility to access said primary
> storage unit as said secondary storage unit.

10.   (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

converting a first command to a second command using a virtual device interface,
> wherein
>
> said first command is configured to control a first type of storage unit,
>
> said second command is configured to control a second type of storage
>> unit,
>
> said first type of storage unit is a secondary storage unit,
>
> said second type of storage unit is a primary storage unit
>
> said primary storage unit is configured to provide access to data stored on
>> non-removable storage media, and
>
> said secondary storage unit is configured to permit access to data stored on
>> removable storage media; and

accessing said secondary storage unit using the virtual device interface.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein

said secondary storage unit is a tape backup unit, and

said primary storage unit is a hard drive.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

creating a virtual loader, wherein

> said converting and said creating are performed by said virtual device
>
>> interface.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein

said creating creates a directory on said hard drive.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

storing information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

> said storing stores information in a file in said directory, and
>
> said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said secondary

storage unit is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

16.   (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

computer readable medium coupled to said processor; and

computer code, encoded in said computer readable medium, configured to cause

> said processor to:
>
> convert a first command to a second command using a virtual device
>
>> interface, wherein
>>
>>> said first command is configured to control a first type of storage
>>>
>>>> unit,
>>>
>>> said second command is configured to control a second type of
>>>
>>>> storage unit,

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said first type of storage unit is a secondary storage unit,

said second type of storage unit is a primary storage unit,

said primary storage unit is configured to provide access to data

stored on non-removable storage media, and

said secondary storage unit is configured to permit access to data

stored on removable storage media; and

access said secondary storage unit using the virtual device interface.

17.   (Original) The computer system of claim 16, wherein

said secondary storage unit is a tape backup unit, and

said primary storage unit is a hard drive.

18.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 17, further comprising:

said virtual device interface, wherein

said computer code is further configured to cause said processor to create

a virtual loader, and

said virtual device interface comprises said computer code configured to

cause said processor to convert and said computer code configured

to cause said processor to create.

19.   (Original) The computer system of claim 18, wherein said computer code configured to cause said processor to create is further configured to cause said processor to:

create a directory on said hard drive.

20.   (Original) The computer system of claim 19, wherein said computer code is further configured to cause said processor to:

store information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

said computer code configured to cause said processor to store said

information is further configured to cause said processor to store

said information in a file in said directory, and

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said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 18, wherein said secondary storage unit is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to convert
      a first command to a second command, wherein
      said first command is configured to control a first type of storage unit,
      said second command is configured to control a second type of storage
         unit,
      said first type of storage unit is a secondary storage unit,
      said second type of storage unit is a primary storage unit,
      said primary storage unit is configured to provide access to data stored on
         non-removable storage media,
      said secondary storage unit is configured to permit access to data stored on
         removable storage media, and
      a virtual device interface comprises said first set of instructions;
a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
      access said secondary storage unit using said virtual device interface; and
computer readable media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in
      said computer readable media.

23.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein
said secondary storage unit is a tape backup unit, and
said primary storage unit is a hard drive.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:
      a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to
         create a virtual loader, wherein
         said virtual device interface comprises said first, said second, and said
            third set of instructions.

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25.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein said third set of instructions comprises:

a first subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to create a directory on said hard drive.

26.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to store information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein said fourth set of instructions comprises a second subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cause said processor to store said information in a file in said directory, and said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said secondary storage unit is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

28.   (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

means for converting a first command to a second command, wherein said first command is configured to control a first type of storage unit, said second command is configured to control a second type of storage unit,

said first type of storage unit is a secondary storage unit, said second type of storage unit is a primary storage unit, said primary storage unit comprises a means to provide access to data stored on non-removable storage media, said secondary storage unit comprises a means to permit access to data stored on removable storage media, and a virtual device interface comprises said means for converting; and means for accessing said secondary storage unit using the virtual device interface.

29.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein

said secondary storage unit is a tape backup unit, and

said primary storage unit is a hard drive.

30.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

means for creating a virtual loader, wherein

said virtual device interface comprises said means for converting, said

means for accessing, and said means for creating.

31.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said means for creating

comprises:

means for creating a directory on said hard drive.

32.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:

means for storing information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

said means for storing stores information in a file in said directory, and

said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

33.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said secondary

storage unit is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.